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INFRASTRUCTURE

Town executing plan for Church Street bridge



Preliminary work is underway on the Church Street bridge replacement, which officials estimate could be ready for traffic sometime in 2023.

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

THORNDIKE — Long before a massive national infrastructure spending package became law last week, Palmer was planning important capital improvements of its own.

The first phase of a plan to replace the Church Street bridge, closed since 2019, is moving forward and the thoroughway is expected to reopen sometime in 2023, Town Manger Ryan McNutt said. While it remains to be seen how much of the \$1.2 trillion in

federal money unleashed will be used locally — Massachusetts will have at least \$9 billion to spread around the Commonwealth — the town plans to systematically repair or replace all of its deteriorating bridges and address other local infrastructure needs.

“I definitely feel that the town council made the right decision in terms of moving forward to open the Church Street bridge,” McNutt said.

While the town hopes some of the federal money makes its way to Palmer, town council wasn’t going to wait to see how congressional

wrangling over the infrastructure bill played out before laying the groundwork for its own vital project. Over the next year, incremental work will unfold leading to the construction of a truss bridge that will once again allow traffic to flow through, rather than around, that section of Thorndike.

“We did that with eyes open, knowing that we’re going to sink some costs that we won’t be able to recover,” McNutt said. “But they won’t be catastrophic, actually.”

In fact, the cost of the initial, pre-engineering design phase will be covered by a \$280,000 grant

Town Planner Linda Leduc secured from the state. The town will eventually spend more than \$2 million — money already committed by town council — on the modular truss bridge that will be removed once a new, permanent bridge is built.

That is not a one and done investment, however.

“The good part is, the truss bridge is something like an erector set,” McNutt explained.

“It can be dismantled and relocated to another challenged bridge. And we know we have Main Street

STREET | page 5

COMMUNITY



Light Up Palmer will be making its return on Dec. 4.

Light Up Palmer to be brighter than ever

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — This year several annual events across the Western Massachusetts area have made a comeback. That includes the highly anticipated Light Up Palmer.

This year, the holiday-themed community event will take place on Dec. 4 at Depot Park, will feature ice sculpting from Michael Rondeau, free coffee and hot chocolate from Dunkin’, s’mores, food trucks, face painting, the official lighting of the park, a reading of “The Polar Express,” and more.

Light Up Palmer is sponsored by several local businesses, including Demore’s Automotive, Tailgate Tavern, George Stewart Inc., Kitchen Table Taxes, and Noonan Energy, among others.

Chairwoman of the Light Up Palmer Committee Christine Smith said she and the rest of the committee decided to put this annual event together after realizing how dark

and bleak downtown Palmer could be when the holiday season rolls in.

“Surrounding communities had a lot of holidays lights and celebrations going on and downtown Palmer didn’t have anything,” Smith said.

“Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce has always had something, but downtown Palmer itself was very dark. In January of 2019, we formed a committee to try and improve the image of downtown Palmer during the holiday and to hope to start a grassroots effort to bring some life back to the downtown area. We had no idea how this effort was going to go, other than knowing we were going to try to do our best and work together as a committee.”

To their surprise, Smith said, the event received a ton of support from residents, downtown businesses, and businesses throughout the community.

“We would have had it in 2020

LIGHT UP | page 5

400 YEARS AGO

Hitchcock Academy speakers detail first ‘Thanksgiving’ and aftermath



Historians Karen Rinaldo and Keven M. Doyle spoke about the 400th anniversary of the very first Thanksgiving last week at Hitchcock Free Academy. Rinaldo is holding a copy of her commissioned painting, “The First Thanksgiving, 1621.”

By Ruth DiCristoforo
Correspondent

BRIMFIELD — Hitchcock Free Academy hosted a community presentation last week with visual historian and artist Karen Rinaldo and combat veteran, historian, and lecturer Keven M. Doyle to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the very first Thanksgiving, in 1621.

Their talk shared highlights of their account of the Mayflower landings and their impact on the native Wampanoag.

Rinaldo and Doyle collaborated to write and illustrate a vignette

style book, “In the Wake of the Mayflower,” inspired by Rinaldo’s painting, “The First Thanksgiving, 1621” commissioned by The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in 1995, as a “Gift to the Nation.”

Doyle explained, “Karen’s painting has been endorsed by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian as well as the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. This is really an endorsement about the authenticity of her painting from that time in history.”

Lifelong Capecodders, they have known each other for decades. For years, Rinaldo has told Doyle, “There is a story in here.

“Finally, one day, I saw the

HITCHCOCK | page 5

GOVERNMENT

Couple sees benefit even if latest recall effort fails



Chris and Crystal Harry gathered signatures for their recall petition drive against Brimfield Selectman Pat Leaming on the Town Common last weekend.

COMMUNITY

Granite Valley School supports military care package drive

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — In preparation for the seventh annual Monson Military Care Package Drive, Co-Organizers Karen King and Lisa Picardi stopped by Granite Valley School to collect handwritten cards.

Not only did King and Picardi stop by and collect the cards, but also spoke with a second-grade class about the importance of supporting the 31 recipients, all local U.S. service members. Granite Valley School Counselor Maria Maloney said aside from the letters, the students have worked with the Holyoke Soldiers Home as well. Maloney also said she is happy to play a role in supporting the recipients,

most of who she knows.

“Most of those recipients were kids I had,” Maloney said.

“We know [the committee] does this wonderful thing, so we wanted to get our kids involved in the letter writing. We talked about maybe having some of the soldiers come through in uniform and meet the kids while they’re one break. We just think this is a great thing.

Along with the cards, King and Picardi also received a \$73 check from the school’s Climate Committee. King said she was more than happy to stop by Granite Valley, collect cards and meet with the students.

“It’s awesome because that is

GRANITE VALLEY | page 6

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Crystal Harry has no illusions about her recall petition drive seeking to unseat Selectman Pat Leaming.

After seeing a recall effort against Leaming ally and Select Board Chair Suzanne Collins fall short of the requisite number of signatures — more than a dozen were invalidated, mostly after residents who signed it changed their minds — earlier this year, Harry realizes it’s difficult to pull off in a town where only around 20% of eligible voters typically cast ballots. And if a special election is called, Leaming’s challenger would need more than a simple majority to win.

Still, she and her husband were

out there on consecutive frigid mornings last weekend, camped out on the Town Common with a sign facing Route 20 announcing their petition drive. A trickle of voters stopped to sign.

One, Mike Grennon, said he supports the petition “Because we need to get him out. It’s his attitude and his arrogance and he’s not for the town.”

Leaming did not respond to a request for comment.

The Harrys needed to gather more than 400 signatures by Nov. 24. At press time prior to the deadline, it wasn’t certain they would reach their goal. The couple said they wouldn’t submit a petition that didn’t have more than the requisite

RECALL | page 5



Founder and Co-Organizer of the Monson Military Care Package Drive Karen King and fellow co-organizer Lisa Picardi stopped by Granite Valley school to collect handwritten cards and speak with a second grade class.



SYDNEY AND SADIE

Adopted as 8-week-old kittens by Claudia Winkler of Monson, sisters Sydney and Sadie are never far from one another. "The love each other and are so bonded," Claudia says. "They do everything together; They are always grooming each other or just playing with all their toys. They are the sweetest addition to the house."

Do you have a pet that makes your life special? We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet's name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Chairman of the Fire Commissioner Jim St. Amand speaks at the ceremony.

PUBLIC SAFETY

It's official: William Bernat is Palmer's new Fire Chief

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — In October of 1993, William Bernat began to work at the Palmer Fire Department as an on-call firefighter. Since then, he was served as a full-time firefighter, and earned promotions up the ranks to lieutenant, captain, deputy chief and now he is officially the new chief of the Palmer Fire Department. Before rising through the ranks and achieving the position of Deputy Fire Chief in Nov. of 2017, Bernat also completed the Career Recruit Program at the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

Bernat's official pinning ceremony took place on Nov. 19, where he was

surrounded by fellow Palmer Fire Department Staff members and other town officials.

Assistant Fire Chief of Bondsville Paul Sigovitch, said he is excited to serve with Bernat, considering his experience with working with him in the past.

"Over the summer, we had two large fires in Bondsville," Sigovitch said. "I had incident command and Chief Bernat was running operations. It helps that we're able to work off each other to make things work for everyone operationally."

After receiving congratulations from the Owner of the Fire Group LLC Daniel Belanger and Chairman of the Fire Commissioner Jim St. Amand, Bernat received his pin from former Palmer Fire



Owner of the Fire Service Group Daniel Belanger gives his congratulations to newly appointed Fire Chief William Bernat.



Newly appointed Palmer Fire Chief William Bernat receives his pin from former Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy.

Chief Alan Roy, who retired after decades of service.

Bernat's stepfather, Joseph Philibotte, who worked as an on-call firefighter at the Palmer Fire Department, was the one who inspired the newly appointed chief to pursue a career in firefighting.

"On Sundays, the firefighters would come down and go through the trucks and make sure they are ready," Bernat said.

"He'd bring me down on Sundays and I would just hang around. The drivers would take the trucks out for a ride and I would usually get on a ride if there was a parade or a function. It was just the unity of the membership and the family atmosphere always attracted me."

Helping people in their time of need

is something Bernat said he finds the most rewarding. He also said he enjoys training new firefighters and helping them begin a career in firefighting.

"Being a mentor is very humbling," Bernat said.

"It's humbling. There's a couple of recruits that are in Wilbraham full-time now and just to see them progressing through their career and knowing you helped them start it is satisfying."

As someone who enjoys going to work every day and knows he went down the right path, Bernat said his advice for any aspiring firefighters is to just do it.

"Get all the training that is available," Bernat said.

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COMMUNITY

It's time to 'Stuff the Cruiser' for local kids this Christmas

PALMER — Lori Chiacchia and her Santa's Elves of Palmer has organized a second annual Stuff the Cruiser event at the Palmer Police Department, scheduled to be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 4.

Residents are asked to bring any new, unwrapped toy and if possible, a non-perishable food item that will be donated to Palmer Food Share to the event.

"We need a lot," Chiacchia said. "So

it's just bring whatever. (Gifts for) all ages and genders are needed."

Demore's Automotive is sponsoring a toy drive at Palmer High School, where students have a chance to win \$500 and a pizza party for their assistance. Tables at the Farm restaurant offers patrons a chance to enter a raffle with proceeds going to the cause.

The winning raffle tickets will be selected during a Facebook livestream on Nov. 27.

For more information, follow the Santa's Elves of Palmer Facebook group or email Chiacchia at l.jodo-in@yahoo.com.



Turley Publications Photo by Michael Harrison
Palmer Police Officer Rick Wahlers and the rest of the town's police department encourages residents to come out and 'stuff the cruiser' with toys for local children in need this Christmas.

The 25th Annual Monson Memorial Classic was held on November 7, 2021.

This event is held in loving memory of Kelly Waldron and Kathy Waldron Perry, and consists of a half marathon and a 5K race. It is our mission to raise funds for local organizations that provide support for cancer patients and their families. This year we will donate to:

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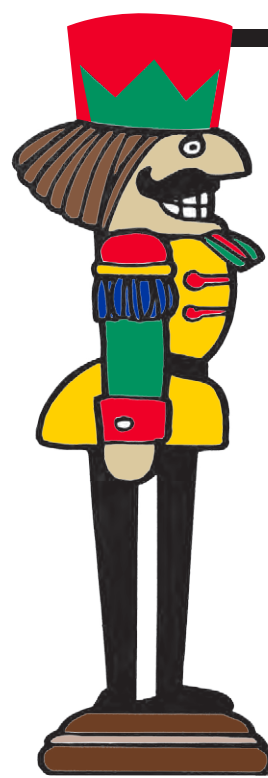


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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.



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Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Time has a way of changing things...

With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives-some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward-a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy New Year.

The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Holiday sing-a-long, history at Keep Homestead

Learn about Christmas Buttons and the background of carols

MONSON The public is invited to tour the Keep Homestead Museum at 35 Ely Road in Monson 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 5 to enjoy special button exhibits as well as a Holiday Sing-a-long led by Gay Paluch, pianist, and Joe Wholley, flutist.

Visitors will have the opportunity to join voices to celebrate the holiday season and to learn about the history of carols and seasonal songs as they discover the beauty of buttons hailing from around the world.

An exhibit, "Christmas Buttons" features several special collections of Myra Keep's heirloom buttons. Superimposed on a music staff are black glass buttons, each one representing a note in the carol, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Among the Bethlehem Mother of Pearl hand carved shell buttons are an angel with spread wings, Madonna and child, and a delicate carving of Mary and Joseph en route to Bethlehem. Buttons in all shades of red and green and symbols of Christmas, including candles, holly, poinsettia, and wreaths, will delight those who explore the historic collection at the museum.

This festive afternoon at the Keep Homestead Museum is free of charge. Light refreshments will be served.

Finance Board members needed

Do you possess financial expertise? If so, the town of Holland Finance Board invites you to join the team.

The Finance Board is actively recruiting for two full members and one associate member.

If interested, send an email to financeboard@hollandma.org or contact the Town Moderator.

Local Communities Receive Recycling Grants

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently announced that Palmer, Sturbridge, and Warren have been awarded grants through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

This initiative is designed to help municipalities and solid waste districts maximize recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. As part of the program, Palmer will receive \$1,000; Sturbridge will receive \$4,900; and Warren will receive \$5250.

"It is great to see Palmer, Sturbridge and Warren being recognized for their sustainability efforts," Smola said.

"These grants will play a pivotal role in supporting local waste reduction programs."

This year, under SMRP, 226 communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program. The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize the reuse and recycling of materials, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items, and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings, and other public spaces.

As part of this SMRP grant round, 42 municipalities that did not apply for or qualify for an RDP payment will be awarded Small-Scale Initiatives Grants. These population-based grants range from \$500 to \$2,000 each and help communities purchase modest, but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new, low-cost initiatives. Each of these SMRP programs are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

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Turley Publications File Photos

Last year, the town of Brimfield hosted a wreath-laying ceremony, courtesy of Wreaths Across America.

HONORING HEREOS

Wreaths Across America looking for volunteers

By **Jonah Snowden**
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD – Last year, Wreaths Across America was able to hold a wreath-laying ceremony in the town of Brimfield for the first time.

To ensure this year's ceremony at the Brimfield Cemetery is successful, the Location

Coordinator of Wreaths Across America for the town of Brimfield Manda Day is looking to find volunteers and sponsorships for the Dec. 18 event.

Nationally, the event invites willing participants to assist with putting together a wreath-laying ceremony in a cemetery, where the grave-stones of veterans are located.

On Dec. 19 of 2020, several residents, Rev. Dawn Adams from First Congregational Church of Brimfield, Brimfield Boy Scouts, U.S. Army National Guard members and more, came together to honor the late veterans who have been laid to rest at the Brimfield Cemetery. Attendees provided positive feedback after the ceremony.

Day, who was inspired to host Wreaths Across America in honor of her father, Joseph Pichierri, wants to recruit as many people as she can to make this event successful.

"A lot of the people that I've spoken I worked with last year, saying 'this is our second annual you're participating and we're hoping to reach our goal

of 361 wreaths for each veteran that who is buried at the Brimfield Cemetery,'" Day said.

Day said any residents or sponsors who would like to support this upcoming ceremony and get involved, can call her at 413-245-7227.

Gift cards available through the Monson PTSA

By **Jonah Snowden**
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – Anyone who needs gift cards for holiday shopping and would also like to support the students at Monson Public Schools, can order one through the Monson Parent Teacher Student Association.

PTSA Advisor for Quarry Hill Community School and Early Childhood Center Denise Newland said the deadline to order a gift card is Dec. 3. She also said there is a percentage the PTSA will get from each purchase, depending on the company the customer chooses to order a card for.

All proceeds the PTSA receives will assist them with putting together fun activities for the students and families in Monson's school district. Newland said they have assisted with putting together scholarships for students, getting headphones for kindergartners and more.

"Anyone can purchase a gift card if they're interested in that," Newland said.

"They can also sign up to be a member. It's \$10 a person. They can just donate straight to our member website if they don't want to buy anything. The gift cards can even be for their shopping."

Should anyone want to make a monetary donation or become a member of the PTSA, visit monsonptsa.memberhub.com/store.

"It makes it a lot easier for people than having to send in physical checks and have them directly deposited into our bank account," Newland said.

Newland said the reason why she enjoys being a part of the PTSA is being able to work with the families, the staff and getting inside information.

"They usually have representation from the administrators from each building or the superintendent will come in and get to hear about what's happening," Newland said.

"We're on the ground level of hearing what's coming up in the schools." To order a gift card or get in contact with the PTSA, email monsonptsa@gmail.com.

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PHCC's Tree and Wreath Festival returns next week

PALMER — The Palmer Historical and Cultural Center is pleased to inform patrons and the surrounding communities that the ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival will be returning to PHCC this year on Dec. 3–5 and Dec. 11–12.

This has been a very popular event over the years, a highlight of the holiday season for local adults and children. It is also important event to PHCC, as it not only brings joy to the local communities, but it is also a major annual fundraiser.

That aspect is especially important this year, after nearly two years of paying monthly expenses and not being able to generate income through programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PHCC re-opened for in-person performances and events this fall.

The Tree and Wreath festival has been successful due to the generosity of many businesses and individual donations of wreaths, trees, ornaments, and gifts, as well as all those who purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win and take home their favorite tree or wreath.

To continue the success of this event, PHCC is once again looking for businesses, organizations, individuals, and families that are interested in supporting this fundraiser by sponsoring a tree and/or wreath. The proceeds from this event will be used by PHCC in carrying out the PHCC mission in providing diversified cultural events to not only to Palmer, but to the surrounding communities and Western Mass. region. If you would like to learn more as to how you can sponsor a tree or wreath, visit the PHCC website – palmerhcc.org – for information and downloadable forms.

If you have questions, email palmerhcc@gmail.com or call the PHCC at 413-289-9295 or Bob Haveles at 413-283-3054.



Courtesy photo

A local favorite, the Tree and Wreath Festival, is back for a ninth year. Stop by to purchase your Christmas tree or wreath or a chance to win them in a raffle. Proceeds benefit the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, which is struggling to rebound from the pandemic.



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Viewpoints

GUEST OPINION

Time to act on ‘An Act Addressing Barriers to Care’

By Sara Kendall

Safe guarding the mental health of all Baystate residents and ensuring their access to needed behavioral health care in a timely fashion is a key component of legislation before the Massachusetts Senate this week.

The Commonwealth generally rates well in national estimates comparing states on prevalence of mental illness and availability of care, but the coronavirus pandemic’s impact on this aspect of health has highlighted the need for more clinicians in the state to address it, more treatment beds outside of emergency rooms and further measures that lock-in fair and equal insurance payments to providers in this field.

Senate President Karen Spilka is a strong advocate of the bill, “An Act Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health.” It is sponsored by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means whose members include Senator Eric Lesser, who represents the First Hampden and Hampshire District, and would be funded in part with money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

One aspect of the comprehensive legislation that holds the potential for long-term progress in recognizing the equal importance of behavioral health to overall health and flagging any issues early is the provision that would provide coverage for what it calls an “annual mental health wellness examination.”

The inclusion of such an exam for the general population, similar to a wellness check for physical symptoms, is a vote for prevention of chronic behavioral health issues that can also lead to medical conditions when left untreated.

The foundation of an individual’s mental health begins early and is influenced in childhood by many factors, including relationships with family members and others, exposure to traumatic events and genetic predispositions.

It has been estimated that half of all mental health conditions start by age 14, but that most go undiagnosed for at least a decade.

Similarly, studies over time have shown consistently mental health disorders to be top cause of disability. It is not uncommon for individuals to suffer more than one such disorder. For example, a substance use disorder may exist with a diagnosis for depression or anxiety.

The language in Senate Bill 2572 defines a mental health wellness exam as a “screening or assessment that seeks to identify any behavioral or mental health needs and appropriate resources for treatment.”

This, it says, could include “observation, a behavioral health screening, education and consultation on healthy lifestyle changes, referrals to ongoing treatment, mental health services and other necessary supports and discussion of potential options for medication.”

It also allows for “age-appropriate screenings or observations to understand a covered person’s mental health history, personal history and mental or cognitive state and, when appropriate, relevant adult input through screenings, interviews and questions.”

Spilka told reporters last week that legislators “really, really have a responsibility in this moment to ensure that every resident of the Commonwealth has equitable access to mental health care, no matter who they are, no matter where they live.”

This is, indeed, the moment to act in the best interest of everyone’s mental and physical health.

Sara Kendall is vice president of clinical operations at the Mental Health Association (MHA). In addition to programs serving individuals affected by Developmental Disabilities, homelessness, Acquired Brain Injury and substance use, MHA operates Bestlife, an outpatient behavioral health clinic supporting the mental wellness of individuals from ages five to 90. To learn more or to get help, call 844-MHA-WELL.

Sara Kendall is vice president of clinical operations at the Mental Health Association.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history.

History matters

Nov. 16 to Nov. 30

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Guest columnists

On November 19, 1863, Gettysburg National Cemetery was dedicated by a coterie of celebrated patriots which included the renowned orator, Edward Everett. He spoke two hours; President Lincoln’s speech was two minutes.

Nobody remembers Everett’s words, but Lincoln’s 275, the Gettysburg Address, remains memorable, significant and relevant.

The president had traveled there by train a day earlier to unify his thoughts, which he scribbled on the back of an envelope. Shortly after he had dinner, Lincoln finished writing.

Henry Jacobs, a witness to the event, was so moved by Lincoln’s remarks as he stood in front of the speaker’s stand, that he felt compelled to record his thoughts:

Please see HISTORY, page 5



In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

Since I put out a suet cake, I had downy woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers. Last week, I saw a hairy woodpecker.

The hairy woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker, common and widespread across North America as far south as western Panama. It is the larger of the two look-a-likes with black-and-white plumage. The hairy has a longer bill, about the length of the head. It also has clean white outer tail feathers. It occurs in wooded habitats with large trees and is a familiar visitor to backyard feeders, especially suet. It calls include a loud “peek” and a fast rattle, stronger than downy woodpecker.

More than 75% of the hairy woodpecker’s diet is made up of insects, particularly the larvae of wood-boring beetles and bark beetles, ants, and moth pupae in their cocoons. To a lesser extent they also eat bees, wasps, caterpillars, spiders, millipedes and rarely, cockroaches, crickets and grasshoppers.

Bark beetles sometimes cause extensive infestations in thousands of live trees, their populations reaching into the billions. When this happens, hairy woodpeckers often appear in large numbers to eat the larvae. A similar pattern happens in forests that have recently burned: wood-boring beetles become very numerous. Hairy and other woodpecker species can become very common in these areas and achieve high nesting success.

Hairy woodpeckers have helped control pest outbreaks such as codling moths in orchards. Elsewhere, a little more than 20% of hairy woodpecker diet is made up of fruit and seeds. Hairy woodpeckers are common visitors at feeders, eating suet and sunflower seeds.

They are cavity nesters. The entrance to the nest is about two inches tall and one and a half inches wide, leading to a cavity eight to 12 inches deep. The inside widens at the bottom to make room for the eggs and the incubating bird. It’s typically bare except for a bed of wood chips at the bottom for the eggs and chicks to rest on.

Great blue heron

Two weeks ago, I saw a great blue heron flying near the Ware River in Barre. It had been several weeks since I saw a great blue heron wading in Long



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo
Hairy woodpecker

Pond in Rutland so I was surprised to still see one.

Birds at the feeders

I have six bluejays a my feeder daily. They love peanuts and shovel through the other seeds to find the nuts. Many seeds land on the ground, which the juncos, white-throated sparrows, tufted titmice, squirrels and chipmunks happily eat. The tufted titmice also love peanuts and sneak onto the tray feeder to grab one for themselves. Several titmice grab a nut even while a bluejay perches on the feeder. Others wait for the bluejays to leave.

A male nuthatch spreads his wings and opens his tail feathers to try to scare other birds away. It does not always work. Sometimes a bird or birds fly away, other times they just keep on eating. He even does his feather display when a gray squirrel is on the feeder.

The female red-bellied woodpecker scares away the bluejays to get peanuts. I buy shelled peanuts and put a few handfuls of them in my tray feeder along with the seed mix.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

When uninvited visitors had a field day

To our shock and surprise, an uninvited family arrived.

Unannounced. No notice. Boom! What a jolt. Not even a gentle knock at the door, nor a finger-push on the doorbell.

By all apparent evidence and appearances, the troupe planned to settle in and take up residence. This included helping themselves – without even a hint of politely asking – to our already shopped for, Thanksgiving food. Many items were still unpacked. Not sorted. Or, put away. Because the coming holiday menu had once-a-year specialties, sundries were spread on several kitchen countertops.

Out in open view. Theirs for the taking.

The group helped themselves to a non-stop, free-loading buffet with not even a Thank You nod! In a small abode, they had a wide-open field day.

With a mid-air, muffled gasp, I asked, “Where were they raised – in a barn?”

Having absolutely no choice in the matter (except trying to choose to manage my attitude), more grocery trips had to be made. Any remaining packaged treats and plastic wrapped goodies were trashed. Other shopping schedules and plans were cancelled or postponed.

Whatever. It didn’t matter. The visitors staked their claim to our “hospitality” and accommodating food supply.

Being cordial and welcoming has always been at the top of our household list. Open heart, open home. But, their “It’s all about us,” and “it’s time to take the place over” attitude and behavior really made me cringe.

Amid the chaos I wondered, “After their unexpected arrival, how are we going to get things ready and shop AGAIN for Thanksgiving?”

Grumbling I muttered, “Aggressive. No manners. Nibble here. Gobble there. Goocy chewy.” And, their unwelcome, ungrateful behavior left tell-tale trails of scattered crumbs and all sorts of remains.

Amid the havoc, The Hub reminisced a bit and brought a ray of sunshine into the room’s gloom.

“Remember when we lived in the rural part of town, near a farmer’s field with his fruit and vegetable stand?”

“Yeah. Those were good days.”

“Well, what about the time we had unexpected visitors and they played and tossed my golf balls as if they were bowling balls?”

“That was funny and surprising. But that was then. This is now.”

As The Hub helped clean up the strewn debris, he said reassuringly, “We recovered then. We will now.”

He continued, “Remember when we found an unwelcome visitor doing a back float in a tub?”

That memory brought chuckles.

“How can I forget that?”

As the daylight hours lingered, the appetites, attitudes and actions of the entourage diminished. As shockingly as they came, they left. Once again the home front was ours.

All countertops were clear and clean. The peanuts for the chipmunks, squirrels and birds were sealed tight. Any other food remains were put away in cabinet shelves behind closed doors.

“Let’s look at where we’re living now,” offered The Hub, “It’s cute and cozy. We welcome and feed creatures and critters...”

“Yes. OUTdoor. Not INdoor!”

“Then let’s find a snap-trap solution. Or, maybe a cat-a-pounce, final resolution for rodents?”

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: The Journal Register Letter to the Editor 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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Santa, crafts and carols part of Arts Council weekend

MONSON — The Monson Arts Council's 42nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair, which featuring an array of artisan items, will open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27 and continue 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28.

The fair presents 70 artisans, crafters and non-profit organizations who all offer a variety of items. The crafters are located in four buildings in downtown Monson in the vicinity of 200 Main Street. Crafters are set up in Memorial Hall, the House of

Art, and the Universalist and Methodist churches.

All locations offer a wide variety of gifts, decorations and collectibles, including stained glass, bath products, books, candles, dry flowers, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand crafted greeting cards, pottery, and much more. The annual fair is a major fundraiser for the Monson Arts Council as well as several other non-profit groups.

Lunch will be served in Memo-

rial Hall and the Methodist Church.

A Girl Scout carol sing will take place in front of Memorial Hall at 4 p.m. on Nov. 27. This holiday music precedes Santa's arrival on a fire truck at approximately 4:30 p.m. Once he arrives, all children may meet Santa Claus in person in the town's Fire Station, where cocoa and cookies will be served.

For information or directions, call Chase Barnett at 413-218-0693.

STREET from page 1

bridge to follow right after Church Street. So our plan is to put the truss bridge up and open up Church Street. And then when the state comes and (builds a permanent bridge), we're going to move that truss bridge over and put it where the Main Street bridge is and that will get the Main Street bridge open."

The cycle would repeat as needed, assuming the funding is available. The truss bridge could also go on loan when not needed in Palmer.

"It's not going to go to waste because again, the truss bridge is something the town will own. We're buying it — we're not renting it. It's an asset that we will own," McNutt said.

"And again, the nature of these truss bridges is they are modular and able to be reconfigured for different spans. So it's something that, again, we have nine bridges. Unless this infrastructure money is going to fix every single bridge, we're always going to have at least one that needs some TLC. And we'll have this option that if it ever gets closed by the state for safety reasons, we can more than likely move our temporary bridge over there. There's also the opportunity that one of our neighboring communities runs into an emergency with a bridge or something, and we would be able to rent it to them or lease it to them or do some type of mutual aid, so this gives us options as well, which is why this is a very attractive and valuable asset to have."

Church Street bridge long outlived its expected lifespan.

"It was built in the 1930s and it was built to last roughly 30 years and it lasted 80 years," McNutt said. So it was needed. Everything was a point of failure — the deck, the supports,, the pylons. Everything was dangerous.

The state of disrepair of Church Street and other local bridges is emblematic of the country's decades-long neglect of its infrastructure, McNutt said.

"We haven't really invested in this country's infrastructure since the end of World War II," he said. Everything is old. Our airports are old. You want to go to a Third World airport, go to JFK in New York. And this is why we're seeing the slowdown at our ports, the backlog on our roads and bridges. You're a farmer in Wisconsin, and you have to bring 80,000 tons of soybeans downtown to the marketplace. And there's not a solid shoulder to the road that you're driving on and your tractor flips. That's a major problem. So it's not Palmer. It's not Massachusetts. It's the entire United States."

Closing Church Street bridge is a microcosm. "We've had to re-engineer truck routes. There's a store there, Junction Variety, that is basically at the intersection of the bridge so they've faced some business loss. OC White is there — they are literally at the bridge, so it's been an impact to them," McNutt said.

The town is aware how the bridge closure and other infrastructure issues have affected residents in general, McNutt said, and he wants everyone to know they are not being ignored. The town can't tackle all of its needs at once, but officials are committed, he said.

"We appreciate the patience of the people that live in Palmer," McNutt said.

"I know this has been an incredible disruption and challenge. It's very hard for the town to be able to take care of all of these challenges at one time. I mean, having nine bridges at roughly a cost of \$5 million per bridge, you can see that easily exceeds our annual \$38 million budget."

RECALL from page 1

number of signatures to withstand challenges. They also allege that voters who signed the petition against Collins were subject to pressure and harassment and they don't want to needlessly expose voters again.

Whatever the outcome, Crystal Harry said they're committed to raising awareness in town, encouraging more voter participation, and voting out Leaming, Collins, and Selectman Martin Kelly. The three have been sparring with residents at select board meetings since the last election.

"We launched it because we saw what was going on, and we didn't agree with what was going on," Crystal said.

"So we decided that we wanted to take the action against the things that we thought were not right going on in the town government."

Both she and Chris admit they didn't vote in the last election and regret it.

"We honestly didn't vote in the last election, and that's what woke us up, that we didn't vote," Crystal said.

"I think that's one of my biggest goals is raising public awareness of what's going on in the town government," she said.

"I think a lot of people are not aware of what's going on. And so getting that out there is really important to us. Even if the recall doesn't succeed, I think just spreading the awareness will be a huge help in getting people involved. And that's really what we need now."

LIGHT UP from page 1

if it weren't for COVID," Smith said. "Instead of doing the downtown celebration, our decorating contest expanded."

To encourage residents to stop by this upcoming holiday festival, Smith said this is an opportunity to enjoy some community fun and get in the Christmas spirit.

"We're looking to make downtown Palmer a better place and a better community," Smith said. "When people say there's nothing to do in Palmer, that's not true. We do have events. People just need to take part in them."

Light up Palmer is expected to begin at 3 p.m. For more information, visit the LightUpPalmer Facebook page, where residents who are interested in participating in the annual neighborhood decorating contest can sign up by noon on Dec. 6.

HISTORY from page 4

"At first his voice sounded a little strained and high-pitched, as if he were trying to throw his voice to the outer edge of the crowd. He held in his right hand the manuscript he had brought from the White House... He emphasized the words 'of,' 'by,' and 'for' (the people) with a stiff yet sweeping bend of his body, holding the manuscript rigidly in both hands.... Then he drew himself up to his immense height, with his arms outstretched, as he impressively uttered the final words, 'shall not perish-from-the-earth.'"

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Lincoln in His Own Words" by Milton Meltzer.

Stealth bomber

It was one of the best kept secrets in the history of the American military: the creation of the world's first stealth aircraft, a bomber that had a massive wingspan of 360

feet ,but was for practical purpose "invisible." Radar tracking was almost impossible; it couldn't be detected by infrared, sound detectors or seen by the naked eye. It took 10 years of working in in total secrecy for Northrop, later known as Northrop Grumman, to design and build the B-2 Spirit a/k/a Stealth Bomber.

News that America had such an important piece of weaponry was divulged at a Nov. 22, 1989, news conference at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Inside the Stealth Bomber: The B-2 Story" by Bill Scott.

First crime lab

Before DNA was used in 1984, criminal investigations were little more than guesswork. But that did not prevent the FBI from establishing its first crime lab on Nov.

24,1932; in a one room, one-man facility, at its headquarters, Agent Charles Appel, who was in charge, had a microscope to find, identify and compare "trace evidence," plus a helixometer to help him inspect gun barrels. But, according to History.com, "it was actually more for show than function."

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover supposedly used the lab for public relations purposes, but over the years, the agency amplified its use of technology. By 1938, its Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory was engaged in scientific analysis of handwriting, typewriting and fingerprints.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Hard Evidence: How Detectives Inside the FBI's Sci-Crime Lab Have Helped Solve America's Toughest Cases" by David Fisher.

HITCHCOCK from page 1

book in her painting and I wrote it!" Doyle said.

Their self-published and co-authored book, "In the Wake of The Mayflower," was printed in 2019 with illustrations including graphics and paintings by Rinaldo. This book covers four distinct timelines: Nauset 1602-1619, Pilgrims' arrival and their relationship with the native Wampanoag, King Philip 1621-1675, and the origin of the fifteen Cape Cod towns, 1675 — 1976.

"One of our favorite quotes is to say this is a fun and well-researched book, brimming with local history," Doyle said.

"I like to find historical things that are kind of unique and fading from the public memory and create awareness for these things for people. We have had great success with this vignette style we used. As you read, it's not necessarily a chronological story. By writing vignettes, we were able to go into individual elements of the story and really expand upon them."

According to Rinaldo, "The art and the book both really took on a life of their own. People ask how this happens. There is no formula for this. You can't write or paint a formula into a piece of work. It's the feeling and the emotions that it carries that finds people in its message."

Rinaldo's original painting of "The First Thanksgiving, 1621," was on display at Plimoth Plantation for 20 years, has been repro-

duced in global history text books, news shows, published by Scholastic Book in the United States, in the Teaching American History with Art Masterpieces series, and found in print all over the world. The work is printed on archival paper with archival ink, signed and includes a legend that is key to the identity of the 52 pilgrims and 91 Wampanoag who gathered at Plimoth Plantation for the first harvest feast. The painting is currently on exhibit at the Museums on the Green, in Falmouth.

Doyle was very proud to be told by Chief Flying Eagle, of the Wampanoag tribe that, "Finally, someone is looking at this time with a positive vibe," he said.

"I think that is the other element I want people to know. This period was very positive time overall. Everyone had problems on both sides but it was a time to be thankful and grateful, cross-cultural. Both sides got together and decided to trust each other and sign a peace treaty, in March of 1621 that lasted for just about fifty years up until the King Philip's War."

The book describes the mutually dependent relationship between the Pilgrims and the indigenous Wampanoags, as depicted by Rinaldo's painting.

"In looking at the image (of "The First Thanksgiving, 1621"), in 400 years not much has changed," Rinaldo said.

"We are still fighting for our freedoms, and looking for the inclusion for all. The natives and the pilgrims were looking to live in peace and protection for their families. There are greater similarities than differences between people and when we all recognize that we will have peace."

Copies of their book, "In the Wake of the Mayflower" are available for purchase for \$20 at the Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road Brimfield. For more information, contact Cindy Skowrya, executive director and organizer of this event at 413-245-9977 or execdirector@hitchcock-academy.org.

You can shop for prints of "The First Thanksgiving, 1621" and the book at shop.themayflowersociety.org.

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February 15, 2021

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Brimfield resident taking a deep dive into ecology

Student examines impact of changing climate, nutrients on seafloor creatures

KINGSTON, R.I. – University of Rhode Island senior Gwen Riendeau was searching for her niche in the field of marine biology, a narrow focus that few people may be studying so she has a better chance of making an impact. That's when she joined a URI research team studying benthic ecology – the creatures living on or in the seafloor, like worms, arthropods and mollusks – and how they are being affected by the changing climate.

"It's a broad and complicated project, but we're using these benthic invertebrates as a model to look at the effects of global warming and eutrophication in Narragansett Bay from excessive nutrients being pumped into the water," said Riendeau, a marine biology major from Brimfield. "I went on a boat for a couple days last summer to collect core samples from three locations in the bay, and now we're identifying the species we found."

Working in collaboration with URI Oceanography Professor Jeremy Collie and graduate student Shaina Harkins, Riendeau is discovering that Narragansett Bay has experienced an increase in biodiversity in recent years as the water has become cleaner and warmer.

"There are more species that are able to come in and survive and thrive than in past years," she said. "We found a huge diversity of worms, for example, more and a bigger variety of fish than in the last 20 or 30 years, and we even found a starfish that the team hadn't seen in 10 years."

Riendeau said she is learning so much about human impacts on creatures that people seldom think about.

"We don't think about the worms at the bottom of the bay that are dying because they don't have enough oxygen because of the things we're doing, or about the shellfish that can't grow their shells because of ocean acidifi-



Courtesy photo
URI senior Gwen Riendeau of Brimfield poses with a fish captured during her research.

cation from climate change," she said.

"It's really opened my eyes to what's out there and how we're affecting things."

She was also surprised to learn how much she enjoyed working in a laboratory.

"That was totally unexpected," Riendeau said.

"I used to volunteer at the Florida Aquarium, and I was outside doing field work all the time. I thought lab work was going to be boring, but I found that time goes by way faster than I thought it would. It captures my attention from start to finish."

Her favorite part of the project, however, has been meeting and networking with the professors and graduate students at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography.

"They showed me that there are so many different avenues you can take in marine biology, so many different projects to work on, very narrowly focused projects rather than broad topics like I thought," she said. "It's more than I expected to ever find."

Riendeau's

research was supported by the URI Coastal Fellows Program, a unique initiative designed to involve undergraduate students in addressing current environmental problems. Now in its 25th year, the program pairs students with a mentor and research staff to help them gain skills relevant to their academic major and future occupations.

As the first woman in her family to go to college, Riendeau is looking forward to graduation next May and entering graduate school. She is already preparing a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund her graduate research, which she said will focus on benthic ecology in Alaska, though she is also interested in studying fish communication and behavior. Eventually she plans to continue her research while working in academia.

"I'm open to whatever comes my way, but I really want to work at a university and continue working in the lab and doing research," she said.

"Most of all, I want to educate others who may not understand the human impacts on the environment. Communicating science is a huge piece of the puzzle that seems to be missing."



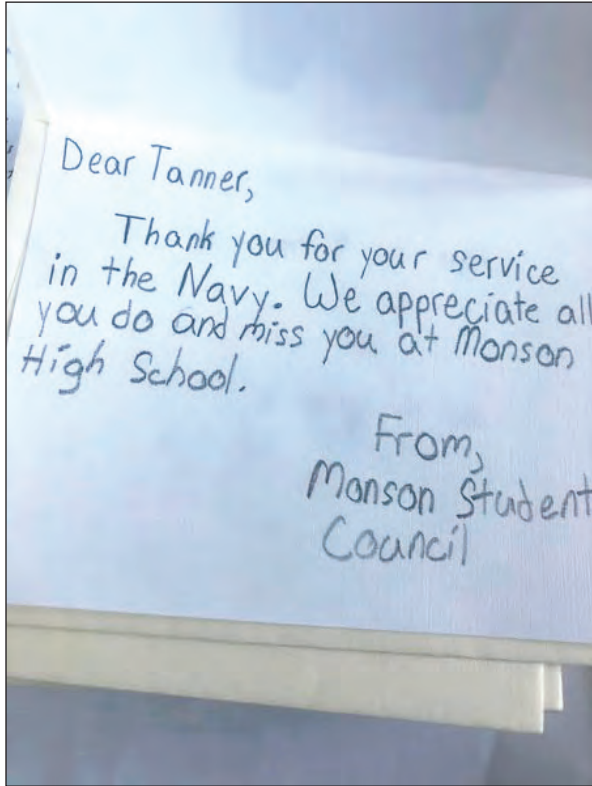
Granite Valley School instructor Karon Paulhus and her first-grade class, with handwritten cards for the 31 recipients of the Monson Military Care Package Drive.



After collecting handwritten cards, Karen King and Lisa Picardi spoke to some second graders at Granite Valley School.



Director of the Monson Free Library Hope Bodwell holding some of the handwritten cards, intended to be sent to all 31 Monson recipients.



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowdon
The Monson High School Student Council also compiled handwritten letters to all 31 recipients.

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GRANITE VALLEY from page 1

their favorite part about what the recipients get in the box," King said.

"Their favorite part is reading the cards and knowing that people are thinking of them back at home

because they know the teachers here. Knowing that we have another generation that is supporting our military is a big deal for them."

Picardi said her son Antonio Picardi, who is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in North Carolina, enjoys receiving a card,

along with the other treats in the package.

"He said he loves the cards and letters," Picardi said. "I think it's great for the kids to actually write a letter, I feel like it's getting to be a lost art."

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SOCCKER



Maddy Theriault navigates through trouble in the offensive end.



Mia Murray pushes a pass ahead of pressure.



Charlotte Theriault follows her shot on goal.



Grace Burke rushes up the field.



Loretta Petraszewicz backs up to play the ball off her chest. PalmerGirlsE

Theriault powers Panthers to state finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER – In the quarterfinals and semifinals, Maddy Theriault has scored eight goals, with the Palmer senior peaking at the right time.

Theriault has led a group of Palmer girls soccer players on an amazing run that will culminated in the state championship that was played last Saturday.

Palmer, versus Western Mass. counterpart boys soccer in Belchertown, drew a “home” game as the state Division 5 championship was set to be played at Chicopee Comprehensive.

But to reach that point, Palmer ventured away from home for first

time in the tournament.

Palmer drew a No. 3 seed thanks to a one-loss regular season, with two Western Mass. tournament games figured into the formula for Palmer’s power rankings.

Palmer hosted Greenfield, a local opponent, followed by Mystic Valley, and then West Boylston.

The state semifinals, which were played last Wednesday night on the road at Walpole High School on the other side of the state, did not phase the traveling Panthers, and certainly did not phase Theriault, who has committed to Fairfield University to play women’s soccer next fall.

Theriault scored an impressive five goals.

Carver, which has been criticized during the tournament for having a male player on its team, answered Theriault’s first two goals in the first half with a pair of goals of its own. When the whistle blew at halftime, the Panthers were locked in a 2-2 tie with the Crusaders.

The male, 6 foot, 3-inch, Kevin Ginnetty, scored the game-tying goal close to halftime. Sarah Stairs had Carver’s other goal, taking advantage of a ricochet.

But Theriault was not finished, getting the scoring started in the second half with a goal about 15 minutes into the frame.

From there, Palmer managed to isolate Ginnetty and the rest of the Carver scoring attack and Theriault

Panthers tear continues through semifinals

PALMER – The Palmer High School girls soccer team has continued its surge in the Division 5 state tournament. The Panthers punched their tickets to the semifinals when they defeated West Boylston 3-1. For the Panthers, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, it was all Maddy Theriault, who scored a hat trick, notching all three goals in the game. She scored in the first half to give the Panthers the lead, and then added to it with a pair in the second half. Sister Charlotte Theriault assisted on two of the shots. Palmer’s run continued into the semifinals against Carver High School on Wednesday, Nov. 17. The quarterfinal win was originally supposed to be a Saturday night game under the lights at Legion Field, but a massive power outage near game time wiped out the game for the evening, forcing West Boylston to have to return the next day.

was able to go to work. Palmer was not answered again after Theriault’s third goal.

Gwen Duggan gave Palmer it’s first insurance goal about five minutes after Theriault, and Theriault scored again in the 65th minute to make it 5-2, a lead Carver just could not overcome.

Palmer’s defense again contin-

ued to play huge, and contained the Carver offense.

Theriault’s final goal came with two minutes remaining in the game, icing on the cake for the powerful Palmer striker.

Palmer won the new Western Mass. Championship, taking the “Class C” title in a regional tournament created by the PVIAC. The

Panthers beat Mt. Greylock 2-1 in overtime for that championship. In the state tournament’s four games, Palmer has outscored its opposition 20-6.

Palmer would go to fall in the state finals, the first time in program history for the Panthers. Coverage of the state final, including photos will be in next week’s edition.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jack Letendre throws a pass attempt over the linemen.

PALMER – After Oxford scored a big upset over higher-seeded Quaboag Regional in the first round of the 16-team Division 8 football tournament, the Pirates visited third-seeded Palmer and found a way to stop Palmer’s surging offense. Palmer would actually get on the scoreboard when Jack Letendre made an 85-yard touchdown pass and a point-after kick gave the Panthers a 7-0 lead. Oxford answered back with a Connor Fantasia touchdown. A second pass gave Oxford an important two-point conversion to make 8-7 Oxford. Both teams then scored again in the fourth quarter, with Oxford tallying first with a touchdown and two-point conversion to make it 17-6. Palmer would score again on a five-yard run by Xavier Nava, but that would be it as the Panthers could not get a point-after and could not get in the end zone again. Palmer’s season went to 8-2 with a Thanksgiving matchup against Ludlow scheduled for Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.



Keith Lavalley looks for a tackle.



Panthers offense stopped by Oxford

Xavier Nava allows blockers to lead him throw a carry.



Damon Cardenales anticipates a block from a rusher.

Jaden Nava prepares to receive a pass.



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DEATH NOTICES

David Daniels Fennyery, 45

Died: Nov. 11, 2021

Patricia M. Lacombe, 88Died: Nov. 12, 2021
Funeral services: 11 a.m.
Dec. 1 at St. Patrick's Church**Gary D. Robinson, 65**Died: Nov. 16, 2021
Visiting hours: 5-7 p.m.
Nov. 29 at Lombard Funeral Home**Kathleen Wentworth, 65**Died: Nov. 13, 2021
Services are privateThe Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

O B I T U A R I E S

David Daniels Fennyery, 45

MONSON — David Daniels Fennyery 45, passed away on Nov. 11, 2021.

He was born on Oct. 3, 1976, in Ware to the late Ronald L. and Vera J. (Daniels) Fennyery. David was a graduate of Pathfinder Vocational High School. He worked for R. P. O'Connell in Natick for over 20 years. David was an avid bowler, a great role model to his nephews and nieces. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

David is survived by his siblings, Donald and wife Kathleen of Medway, Daniel and Lynne, both of Monson; nephews Steven of Monson, Tyler, Ethan, and Cole of Medway, and Daniel of Monson; nieces Alyssa and Haley, both of Monson; along with many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

The family gathered to re-



ceive relatives and friends Sunday, Nov. 21, at the Forastiere Smith Funeral & Cremation at 220 North Main Street, East Longmeadow. A calling hour took place on Nov. 22 in the funeral home followed by a procession to the Springfield Crematory.

For more, go to forastiere.com.

Patricia M. (Lunden) Lacombe, 88

MONSON/ST. AUGUSTINE — Patricia M. (Lunden) Lacombe, 88, passed away Friday, Nov. 12, 2021 in Florida.

Pat was born in Springfield, June 18, 1933, to the late Carl and Doris E. (Ryan) Lunden. Pat was a graduate of Monson High School, Class of 1951. She then continued her education at Springfield Hospital School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse. She worked in area hospitals, including Wing Memorial, Baystate Medical, Wesson Women's and retiring from Mary Lyon Skilled Nursing Facility in 1994. Pat was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Monson.

She was a Red Sox and NA-SCAR fan. Her favorite drivers were Dale Earnhardt and Dale Jr. She enjoyed gardening and crafts. Her greatest joy was spending time with family, es-

pecially her grandchildren, where she was the best Meme anyone could have.

Pat was predeceased by her husband Marshall N. Lacombe in 2002. She leaves her children, Mark A. Lacombe and his wife Mary of Brimfield, Gary M Lacombe and his wife Margaret of St Augustine, Fla., and Linda A. Lacombe and partner Allan Coolong of Lawtey, Fla.; a sister, Marilyn Proctor; a brother, Edward Lunden; grandchildren Michele Lacombe and boyfriend Joe Martin of Albany, N.Y., Melissa Barrows and her husband Brian of Brimfield, Erin Lacombe of Coventry, R.I., Brian Lacombe of Bristow, Va., Yvonne Lacombe and her boyfriend Dexter Shepherd of Los Angeles, Calif., Heather Staton



and husband Robert of Mystic, Conn., and Emily Turner of Brighton; and great grandchildren, Landon and Lucas Barrows.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. A visiting hour will be held in Lombard Funeral Home from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. with Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery all located in Monson.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Pat's name to Community Hospice Center for Caring at Baptist Medical Center South, 14550 Old St. Augustine Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32258.

For online condolences, visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

Gary D. Robinson, 65

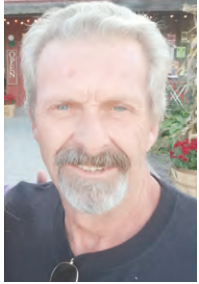
WALES — Gary D. Robinson, 65, passed away, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021.

Gary was born in Ludlow to the late Charles W. and Clarice P. (Gilman) Robinson. He served in the United States Army from 1974-1976 and was honorably discharged.

He has been a resident of Wales for many years. Gary was a school bus mechanic for more than 26 years with the Tantasqua Regional School District. He enjoyed stock car racing and traveling to the Monadnock Speedway with the Chapin family, riding

motorcycles and when he wasn't fixing vehicles at the bus company, he enjoyed working on cars and trucks in his off hours.

Gary leaves his wife, Sandra M. Robinson; his brothers, George Robinson and his wife Dorothy of West Springfield, James Robinson and his partner, Carol Trevor of Wales; many nieces and nephews; step-children, Tyler, Kaitlynn, Anthony, Mackenzie, Bella and their families.



Visiting hours will be held 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29, in Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St, Monson. Military Honors will conclude the visiting hours at 7 p.m. A private burial will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to the Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org. For online condolences visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

*Kathleen "Kay" Wentworth, 65*

MONSON — Kathleen "Kay" Wentworth, 65, passed away surrounded by love of family at home, Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021.

Kay was born in Stafford Springs, Conn., to the late Dorothy (Fountain) DiPietro and Kenneth Howlett. Kay was devoted to her family, raising four children and always welcoming extended family members and friends into her home.

In the quiet times she enjoyed visiting local outdoor parks and zoos. Kay leaves her loving husband of 47 years, Den-

nis E. Wentworth and their children: Dennis E. Wentworth Jr. of Holland, Kevin A. Wentworth of Holland, Jason K. Wentworth and his fiancée Nicole Peters of Stafford Springs, and a daughter Cheryl M. Bolduc of Monson; brothers Kenneth Howlett of Stafford Springs, William DiPietro and his wife Mandy of Palmer; a sister Julia Napolitan of Warren; six grandchildren, Nicole O'Keefe, Camrin Bolduc,



Jayden Wentworth, Roxie Leblanc, Jaymie Wentworth, Alan Wentworth, and a great granddaughter Bailey DiPietro. Kay was predeceased by a sister, Anna Perry.

All funeral services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home of Monson. For online condolences visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. *The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.*

NOW

CRAFTS FAIR: The Monson Art Council's 42nd annual Crafts Fair will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, in the vicinity of 200 Main Street. Crafters are set up in Memorial Hall, the House of Art, and the Universalist and Methodist churches. All locations offer a wide variety of gifts, decorations and collectibles, including stained glass, bath products, books, candles, dry flowers, clothing, holiday decorations, jewelry, quilts, soft sculpture, hand crafted greeting cards, pottery, and much more. Lunch will be served in Memorial Hall and the Methodist Church. For information or directions, call 413-218-0693.

SOON

LIGHT UP PALMER: Come to Depot Park 3 p.m. Dec. 4 for

ice sculpting, free coffee and hot chocolate, s'mores, food trucks, face painting, the official lighting of the park, a reading of "The Polar Express," and more. For more information, visit the LightUpPalmer Facebook page, where residents who are interested in participating in the annual neighborhood decorating contest can sign up by noon on Dec. 6.

TREE AND WREATH FESTIVAL: The Palmer Historical and Cultural Center will hold its ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival Dec. 3-5 and Dec. 11-12. Come for a wide selection of trees, wreaths, ornaments, gifts, and more. Proceeds will be used by PHCC in carrying out the PHCC mission in providing diversified cultural events for Palmer, surrounding communities, and Western Mass. region. The festival will be held 4-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 4-5 and Dec. 11-12. If you would like to learn more as to how you can sponsor a tree or wreath, visit the PHCC website at palmerhcc.org for information and downloadable forms. If you have questions, email palmerhcc@gmail.com or call the PHCC at 413-289-9295 or Bob Haveles at 413-283-3054.

STUFF THE CRUISER: Bring a new, unwrapped toy – all ages are needed – and a non-perishable food donation to the Stuff the Cruiser event 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 4, at the Palmer Police Department, 4417 Main Street. Donations go to lo-

cal families in need. To learn more about Santa's Elves, visit the group on Facebook or email Chiacchia.

DINNER AND MUSIC: On Saturday, Dec. 4, the First Church of Monson Music Committee will hold a dinner followed by a concert. The Fanfare Brass Ensemble under the direction of David Neill will perform as will Kiel Krommer on organ. The audience will be invited to join in the singing of Christmas carols. The dinner features baked ham, roasted potatoes, cranberry-orange relish, butternut squash, and apple cake with whipped cream for dessert. Tickets are \$20 for the dinner and concert. Dinner will be served at 5 P.M.; the concert will follow at 7 p.m. Contact Gail at 413 267 4818 for dinner/concert reservations. Tickets for the concert are \$5 and will be available at the door.

CHRISTMAS SHOW: Friends of the Palmer Senior Center is sponsoring a day trip to see the 2021 edition of "ChristmasTime", Saturday, Dec. 4, at The Reagle Music Theatre, Waltham. This spectacular show includes a cast of 150 performers with full orchestra, yuletide tunes, and much more! The cost is \$120 and includes admission, transportation, lunch at Owen O'leary in Westborough, and gratuities. Vaccination card and mask required. For details and reservations, call Betty Koss at 413-668-7213 or Loretta Madden at 413-323-4166.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

All new programs, events for November

HOLLAND — From Veterans Appreciation Day to crafts, quilting and fitness classes, the Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road offers fun, educational, and life-enriching activities for all ages.

If you're not familiar with the Friends group, be sure to attend the meeting on Nov. 16 (details below).

There are nutritious, home-made meals as well. Here's a look at what's going on this month:

Hungry?

You can dine-in or take out meals on Mondays and Wednesdays. Take out Pick up is 11:45 a.m.-noon. Dine-in is at noon. A \$3 donation RSVP required. Due to a wonderful donation from the Holland Council on Aging, any Holland senior resident will be able to get their lunch for a \$3 suggested donation.*

For a \$5 suggested donation you will get the entrée, a side and dessert.

All ages are welcome to order.

November's Menu

Nov. 29: French Onion Soup

Smothered Pork Chops

*Please have exact change if possible.

Program highlights

CRAFTER'S SOCIAL & QUILTING: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.- Bring your favorite project and visit with other crafters each week.

DOMINOES: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Join us every Tuesday for dominoes. We use colored, numbered pieces instead of dots, which helps if you have less than perfect eyesight. The game is pretty simple and lots of fun. Everyone is invited and it's FREE.

MIX IT UP WITH DEBBIE: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The class consists of core and body conditioning. Includes cardio, strength training, and stretching. Plus its lots of fun. Bring yoga mat and flat fitness band if you have it. RSVP is required. \$5 per person (\$3 for seniors).

YOGA: Wednesdays at 5 p.m. – Take time out for you. The holidays are coming and self-care is very important. Come to the Center for an hour of relaxation and self-care.

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MEDICINAL HERBS: Monday, Nov. 29 at 12:45 p.m. Are you a little nervous about trying medicinal herbs? Would you like to increase your knowledge about using the spices and herbs, commonly found in your kitchen? Take this opportunity to learn about some herbal home remedies. What can you find in the supermarket that may aid in keeping you healthy? Learn some of the vocabulary associated with the use of herbs: tea, salve, oils, syrup, tincture, essential oil, cordial.

Have fun and take information home today that you can use tomorrow!

Every MondayMah Jongg – 10:15 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Texas Hold'em – 4:30 p.m.
Every Tuesday
Crafters Social – 10:30 a.m.
Dominoes – 10:30 a.m.
Every Wednesday
Mix it Up – 10 a.m.
Take out Lunch – 11:45 a.m.
Lunch – noon
Mah Jongg – 1 p.m.
Every Thursday
Food Drive – 11 a.m.

Cribbage – 12:15 p.m.

Pitch – 5 p.m.

Yoga – 6 p.m.

Dominoes – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Did you play dominoes as a kid? Have you heard of the Mexican Train version? We are playing every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. If you've played before, or you're new to the game, it won't matter. We have lots of fun. We just learned about an app for counting the dots so you can play using dots, or using numbers, whichever you prefer. We already have a few new players and they're having a good time. RSVP encouraged but walk-ins allowed.

Wait, there's more!

Helping Wales Community Pantry

We are still collecting food for the Wales Community Pantry. The Pantry serves the residents of Holland, Wales, and Brimfield. They need peanut butter, jelly, Spam, cereal, and other nonperishable goods. You can drop off food anytime or day the Center is open. Monetary Donations can be made out to Wales Community Pantry. Monetary Donations help the Pantry to order fresh meats and produce.

Need pet food?

Here Today, Adopted Tomorrow has been very generous helping the residents of Holland and other towns by bringing dog and cat food here each week. If you need some for your animals, please stop by any time we are open.

For more information, call the Holland Community Center at 413-245-3163, visit on Facebook or go to town.holland.ma.us/community-center.

Gobi has office hours across district through Nov.

State Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) invites community members to meet with her Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Lucas McDiarmid, at locations across the Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District through November.

Office hours will last for a period of one hour at each location and are scheduled by region. All residents are invited to attend at any location. If you have questions or wish to make a special appointment with the Senator or her staff, outside of scheduled hours, please call 413-324-3082. You may also email Lucas.McDiarmid@MASenate.gov.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Ware Senior Center; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Palmer Public Library

Quabbin author presents history program

Local author and historian Jacqueline T. Lynch will be giving an online Zoom presentation for the Amherst Historical Society noon to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, on the historical background for her novel, "Beside the Still Waters," about the towns that were demolished to create the Quabbin Reservoir in Central Mass.

The story is about community and the loss of community, and how our hometowns make up a big part of our family heritage and our personal identities. Photos and map images will accompany the talk, which will be part of the Society's "History Bites Lunchtime Lecture Series". Join the Zoom presentation at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84485731584#-success or access the Amherst Historical Society website at amhersthistory.org.

Child and Babysitting Safety Class scheduled for Dec. 3

The Parks Department is offering a Child and Babysitting Safety class for youth ages 11-15 yrs. old. The class will be held at the Chicopee Parks office 687 Front St. on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021 (Which is a day off for Chicopee Public school kids) from 9:00 AM. – 12:30PM. Masks will be worn at all times. The cost is \$80/ Residents \$85/Non-residents.

The class will cover such topics as playtime, behavior management, phone skills, common do & don'ts, bathing, feeding, changing diapers and fire safety. Class space is limited! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com.

The Wing Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop misses you!

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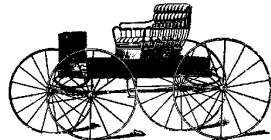
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Bank, OSV throwing hunger another curveball

Together they deliver 1,500 Thanksgiving meals



Courtesy photo

Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village have partnered again this year to provide Thanksgiving meals for those in need from Springfield to Worcester.

WARE – Once again, Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village are teaming up to ensure Thanksgiving meals are provided to those who need a little help celebrating Thanksgiving this year. The bank's nonprofit partners shared that they are seeing an increased need for food assistance as prices continue to rise and that more and more people are needing support.

Paul Scully, president and CEO of Country Bank wanted to double its efforts this year and provide 1,500 meals to those needing assistance spanning from Springfield to Worcester. On Wednesday, Nov. 24, the team from Country Bank will deliver 1,500 free meals that were prepared and assembled by the culinary team at Old Sturbridge Village, including a full turkey dinner with all the sides and apple pie for dessert.

Meals will be delivered to St. John's Food for the Poor, YWCA, Abby's House, Veterans Inc., Elm Street Congregational Church, Christina's House, Ronald McDonald House, Mustard Seed, Project New Hope, Old Sturbridge Village, Hatfield, South Hadley, Chicopee and Easthampton Veterans' Services and Friends of the Homeless.

In addition, the students of Old Sturbridge Academy created hand-made

greeting cards to go with the meals, which are sure to bring a warm smile to anyone's face.

"We want to do everything we can to help support families in the community this Thanksgiving," said James Donahue, president of Old Sturbridge Village.

"Country Bank and Old Sturbridge Village share a collective belief that the strength of the community begins with giving back to those in need," said Scully. "As a community partner, we want to offer our support where it is needed most this holiday season. We know we can make a difference when we work together."

Public notices

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter 143, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM** on the application of HRQ Global c/o Hector Quiles of 144 Bradway Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for activities associated with the proposed construction of two (2) single family homes on ANR lots subdivided from 9 Fuller Road.

Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) and within the 200-foot Riverfront Area to Moores brook, a coldwater fisheries resource.

The project site is located 9 Fuller Road in Palmer, MA 01069, and is identified as: Assessor's Map 29-12.

Any interested persons wishing to be heard on the application should appear at the time and place designated. A copy of the application and plan may be inspected at the Palmer Town Hall in the Conservation Commission Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or contact the office at 283-2611.

Donald Blais, Jr., Chair, Palmer Conservation Commission

11/25/2021

TOWN OF WALES LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 40A Section 11, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **December 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Wales Senior Center, 85 Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA 01081, on the application submitted by Kim O'Keefe, for a Special Permit for use of 16 Holland Rd. to be a restaurant/bar, and for that use to remain with the property. Any person interested and wishing to be heard on this application should refer to the town website (www.townofwales.net). Virtual information is available on the agenda posted. If you have any questions or concerns, please email planning@townofwales.net 11/25, 12/02/2021

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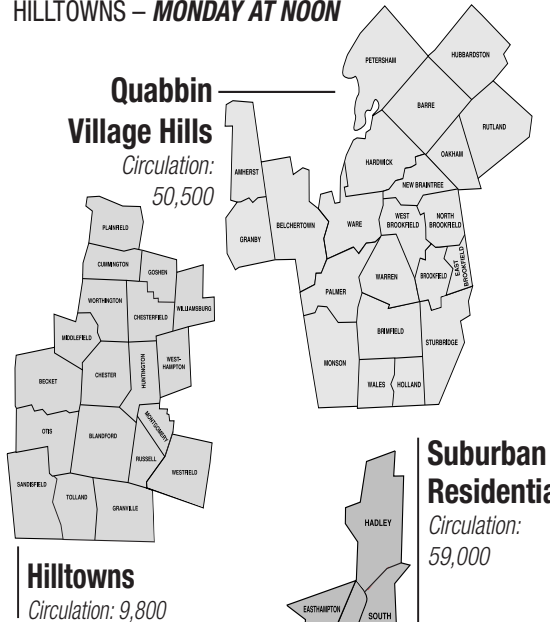
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Monson Savings Bank announces the promotion of Kohn

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank is happy to announce the recent promotion of Aimee E. Kohn to Business Relationship Manager. She joins the Bank’s Business Development team at the Loan & Operations Center, located at 75 Post Office Park in Wilbraham. She will also travel to customers to assist with their business banking needs.

“Since joining the Monson Savings team, Aimee has demonstrated that she is truly a team player. She is a knowledgeable colleague who is always more than happy to help others succeed,” said Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank. “Aimee has provided exemplary customer service to our customers. This is something that I know she will continue to do in her new position. We have enjoyed watching Aimee grow with the Bank and we are looking forward to her continued growth with us.”

Kohn is a resident of Wilbraham. She resides with her husband, their two daughters, and their beloved dogs. In her new role as Business Relationship Manager, Kohn will be responsible for assisting current and future Monson Savings Bank business customers with their banking needs. Along with the other members of the Business Development Department, Kohn will be assisting in making business banking more manageable for business owners. From her years of experience working with business owners in her

retail banking positions, Kohn knows that owning a business is a demanding, and sometimes, hectic job. She will make the job of running a business a little bit easier by offering various business banking solutions and convenient service options.

Kohn began her career in banking with Monson Savings Bank seven years ago. She started as a part time Customer Service Associate at the Bank’s Monson Branch. She quickly proved herself to be a valuable asset to the Bank. Her commitment to providing exceptional customer service and her dedication to her team has led her to flourish in the Retail Banking Department. She was promoted to full time Customer Service Associate before becoming a CSA Supervisor, then Kohn was promoted to Assistant Branch Manager of the Wilbraham Branch, and most recently served as the Branch Manager of Monson Savings Bank’s newest branch in East Longmeadow.

Throughout her career with Monson Savings, Kohn has gone the extra mile to contribute to the overall success of the Bank. She has been a member of various internal committees, including: the East Longmeadow Branch Opening Committee, the East Longmeadow Branch Strategy Committee, and



the Pandemic Re-Opening Preparedness Committee. Additionally, Kohn has trained and aided many members of her team, helping them to grow in their positions and develop their skillset to achieve success.

Furthermore, Kohn holds a Bachelor’s Degree in English Literature with a minor in Psychology from Roger Williams University.

“I am so thrilled to continue my journey with Monson Savings Bank and join the Business Development Department,” said Aimee Kohn, Business Relationship Manager. “During my career in retail banking, one of my favorite job responsibilities has been assisting our business customers because I am given the opportunity to learn about their businesses and to build relationships. In my new position, I will be able to work more closely with business customers. I am very excited for the new experiences my position will offer me and to help our business customers succeed.”

To contact Aimee E. Kohn for your business banking needs, she can be called at (413) 893-0174 or emailed at akohn@monsonsavings.com.

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank, visit monsonsavings.bank.

Time to get flu shots

SPRINGFIELD – It’s time to get your flu shot. And with good reason.

Health experts are predicting a more virulent flu season for 2021-2022 compared to one which was nearly nonexistent last year.

Last year’s flu season was one of the mildest on record, which many attributed to the safety measures, especially mask wearing, taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But, this year’s upcoming respiratory season may be different.

“Due to last year’s low activity from flu and other respiratory viruses, such as coronaviruses, parainfluenza, and RSV, there is low population immunity that increases the risk of these respiratory infections co-circulating with COVID-19. In addition, relaxing some of the infection control measures, such as masking and social distancing, and more time indoors due to the cold weather, may contribute to the risk being greater this year,” said Dr. Armando Paez, chief, Infectious Disease Division at Baystate Health.

“Increased flu vaccination for both adults and children could help reduce the risk of a more severe flu season which would result in what health professionals are calling a possible twindemic of flu and COVID-19,” he said.

A contagious respiratory illness that strikes the U.S. beginning in October and lasting through May, the flu usually peaks from December through February. Each year about 9,000 to 45,000 people in the U.S. get infected, resulting in 140,000 to 810,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 to 61,000 deaths, most of them in adults 65 and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ideally, the CDC recommends that everyone should be vaccinated by the end of October since the flu can begin in earnest at any time and it can take up to two weeks for the vaccine to build up antibodies to protect you from the flu.

“But it is never too late to get the flu shot to protect yourself throughout the long flu season,” said Paez.

The CDC notes that flu shots are appropriate for most people, with rare exceptions for children younger than six months of age and those with severe, life-threatening allergies to any ingredient in the flu or who have had a previous severe allergic reaction to a dose of flu vaccine.

There are standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccines that are

approved for people as young as six months of age. Some vaccines are only approved for adults. For example, the recombinant influenza vaccine is approved for people age 18 years and older, and the adjuvant and high-dose inactivated vaccines are approved for people 65 years and older. The nasal spray vaccine is approved for people 2 through 49 years of age. Many people in this age group can receive the nasal spray vaccine, including people with egg allergies.

Paez said that pregnant women and adults with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease, and stroke, chronic kidney disease, and diabetes, as well as adults 65 years and older who are at higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu should get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Yet another concern, according to Paez, “If you have a weakened immune system after contracting COVID-19, it can leave you at risk for getting a more severe case of the flu, or vice versa.”

“Although breaking news stories are focusing on COVID-19 vaccines for our kids, pediatricians and parents should not forget how important it is to get your children the flu vaccine,” said

Dr. John O’Reilly, chief of the Division of General Pediatrics at Baystate Children’s Hospital.

“Influenza has always been a significant illness in children. Kids under 5, kids with asthma, children with serious underlying pulmonary, cardiac, neurologic, or immune system illnesses are at particular risk for a serious influenza infection. During the 2019-2020 Influenza season, 199 children died of the flu, so we need to protect our kids from this deadly disease.”

The lack of a significant flu season last year means that many of our kids under 2 were not exposed to the flu and did not develop any natural antibodies.

“That means children under 2 are at particular risk for serious influenza this year. We need to protect our most vulnerable children by getting them vaccinated against the flu as soon as possible,” said O’Reilly.

Children between six months and 8 years of age who have never received at least two doses of flu vaccine at any point in time during their lives (not necessarily during the same flu season) need two doses of flu vaccine, given at least four weeks apart, to be fully protected from flu.

“That means you should call

your pediatrician’s office today because you want to build up their immune system protection before influenza starts hitting our community hard,” said O’Reilly.

Although most COVID 19 infections in children are mild, he is concerned about kids who might get COVID and influenza infections back to back.

“Both of these infections can cause inflammation and damage in the lungs. If a child has a COVID infection followed quickly by catching influenza, the likelihood of a more severe and damaging infection is greater,” he said.

To prevent the possibility of a severe infection, O’Reilly recommends that parents get their children vaccinated against COVID as soon as they are eligible, and to get their flu shot as soon as possible.

“The latest recommendation is that you no longer need to wait between getting these two vaccines and the sooner we get our kids protected against these two serious illnesses, the sooner they can get safely back to doing what they have been missing during the last year and a half – enjoying time with friends and family,” he said.

Paez said he is always asked by those skeptical about getting vaccinated: “Can the flu shot can give you the flu?” The answer is “No,” he said.

This year he is being asked two additional questions: “Can the flu shot protect you from COVID-19? “ Unfortunately, the answer is also “No,” he said. And, “Can you get the flu and COVID-19 shots at the same time? “Yes,” he said.

While talking about the flu vaccine and its importance, it is equally important to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and receive the booster shot, if one is eligible.

Co-infection with other respiratory viruses can occur. It will be prudent to protect yourself with vaccination against preventable respiratory infections like the flu and COVID-19. Even if treatments are available for these conditions, vaccination remains the safest way to avoid complications or even dying from the infection. This will not only protect you, but also those around you. Masking, social distancing and frequent handwashing may offer additional protection and help prevent the spread of the infection,” said Paez.

For more information on Baystate Health, visit baystatehealth.org or for more information about Baystate Children’s Hospital, visit baystatehealth.org/bch.

Rep. Smola supports \$3.8B COVID relief bill

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren), ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means, recently supported a multi-billion dollar COVID relief bill of over 1.5B, his office said.

Smola’s said the legislation makes significant investments in housing, economic development, workforce training, health and human services, education and the environment, while also addressing food insecurity issues and financing a wide range of local initiatives across the state.

House Bill 4219, called “An Act relative to immediate COVID-19 recovery needs,” uses \$2.5 billion Massachusetts received from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and \$1.15 billion from the state’s FY21 budget surplus, his office said. The bill was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 159-0 on Oct. 29.

The original version of House Bill 4219 released from House Ways and Means allocated \$600 million for housing initiatives, \$750 million for workforce programming, \$777 million for economic development, \$765 million for health and human services programs, \$265 million for education, and \$350 million for the environment and climate resiliency efforts. An additional \$173.6 million in spending was added through the amendment process.

To ensure accountability and transparency, Smola’s office said, the bill provides the Inspector General’s office \$5 million to develop a database so the public can easily track how the ARPA money is being spent, including the number of projects awarded to minority-owned businesses and organizations.

Smola said the bill offers financial assistance to both businesses and workers impacted by the global pandemic. In addition to investing \$500 million to offset unemployment insurance costs, House Bill 4219 provides \$200 million in tax relief to small businesses that were required to pay personal income taxes on COVID aid they received from the state or federal government. The bill also establishes a \$500 million premium pay program that will offer bonuses ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 for essential employees who continued to work in person during the pandemic, specifically those earning less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$38,640 a year, his office said.

The bill also directs the Department of Unemployment Assistance to establish a public information

campaign to provide notice to all 2020 and 2021 UI claimants about the availability of an overpayment waiver. As part of this outreach effort, DUA must provide information related to the right to request a waiver, eligibility requirements, the application process, and information about collection actions.

House Bill 4219 also includes a \$10 million transfer to the Community Preservation Trust Fund. This fund helps support historic preservation, affordable housing, and parks and open space across the Commonwealth.

The following are some of the other key provisions contained in the COVID-19 relief package, by category:

HOUSING

- \$200 million to promote homeownership opportunities, half of which is directed to residents of communities that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic
- \$100 million for the creation of affordable rental housing
- \$150 million to rehabilitate and modernize state-aided public housing developments
- \$150 million to provide permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless, domestic violence survivors, seniors and veterans

WORKFORCE

- \$150 million for workforce skills training, with priority given to those individuals who were laid off during the pandemic to help them re-engage in the workforce, including apprenticeship programs for low-income workers, adult basic education programs, rapid re-employment contracting and regional planning and equipment grants

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$60 million in grants for small businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic, including \$25 million set aside for those businesses that did not qualify for previous grants and \$35 million for businesses that focus on reaching underserved markets, along with minority-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned businesses
- \$125 million for a cultural assets reserve to assist cultural organizations and artists

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- \$150 million over three years for local and regional public health systems to address health disparities
- \$250 million for behavior-

al health programs, including \$100 million for initiatives ranging from student loan assistance and tuition reimbursements to workshop training programs

- \$250 million for community hospitals and \$20 million for community health centers to update and improve electronic health record systems
- \$70 million to update and modernize nursing facilities and address workforce shortages

EDUCATION

- \$25 million in endowment funds for the University of Massachusetts, state universities and community colleges
- \$100 million in grants for public school districts to improve ventilation and indoor air quality in their facilities
- \$100 million for the capital needs of existing vocational and career and technical schools
- \$10 million for grants distributed by and for the Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs for workforce development and capital improvements to YMCA buildings and camps

ENVIRONMENT

- \$100 million for marine port development and offshore wind
- \$100 million for environmental infrastructure to help communities become more climate resilient
- \$100 million for water and sewer infrastructure improvements
- \$25 million for a forestry and tree planting greening program for projects on publicly owned land and land owned by non-profit organizations
- \$25 million for state parks and recreational facilities upgrades

MISCELLANEOUS

- \$78 million to address food insecurity across the Commonwealth
- \$50 million to close the digital divide for broadband and internet access in low-income areas
- \$15 million in prison re-entry grants to support individuals released during the pandemic
- \$10 million for community-based gun violence prevention programs in high-risk areas
- \$12 million to assist with the resettlement of Afghan refugees in the state

Want to know more?

Contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

Rep. Smola Supports Genocide Education Bill

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported legislation that provides for the teaching of genocide education to middle and high school students, beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year.

House Bill 4249, called “An Act concerning genocide education,” was engrossed on a vote of 157-2 in the House of Representatives on Nov. 16.

The bill is an amended version of Senate Bill 2557, which was previously passed by the Senate on Oct. 21.

House Bill 4249 requires school districts to educate students in middle school and high school about the history of genocide, consistent with the standards articulated in the history and social science curriculum framework adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Representative Smola said the bill allows schools to partner with community-based organizations, including municipal human rights commissions, to help

facilitate this instruction.

Genocide education will be structured to promote the understanding of human rights issues, with a focus on the inhumanity of genocide; the history and patterns of genocide that demonstrate how hatred against national, ethnic, racial or religious groups impacts nations and societies; and the rejection of the targeting of a specific population and other forms of prejudice that can lead to violence and genocide.

Smola said the bill establishes a Genocide Education Trust Fund, which will be partly supported by revenue from fines imposed for hate crimes and civil rights violations. The Fund will be used to develop materials for students detailing the underlying causes, international reaction, progression and aftermath of genocide, and to provide professional development training for teachers.

House Bill 4249 also calls for the establishment of a grant program to promote student instruction on the history of genocide. The bill grants the Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education the authority to prioritize funds for underserved communities, including public schools and school districts with high concentrations of economically-disadvantaged students or schools that have experienced an incident that was motivated by racial, ethnic or religious bias.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education will be required to file two annual reports. One report will disclose the collected revenues, expenditures and projected revenues associated with the Genocide Education Trust Fund, while the other will detail the progress of genocide education programs in Massachusetts, including the number of hours of instruction offered, the grade levels it is being taught at, and the title and description of the course in which the instruction is integrated.

For more information, contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

Free Small Business Legal Clinic at WNEU now accepting applications

Application Deadline:

Jan. 1, 2022

SPRINGFIELD (10/21/2021) – The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the spring semester 2022. Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with legal issues including choice of entity, employment policies, contract drafting, regulatory compliance, and intellectual property issues relating to trademark applications and copyright. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services.

The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 500 small businesses since it opened. “The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney,” explained Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen. “By using the Clinic’s services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides students with a great opportunity to get real world experience.”

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by January 1, 2022. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin provid-

ing services in late January. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at mfletcher@law.wne.edu.

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

United Way of PVA launches 'Hope for the Holidays' Gift Drive

United Way of Pioneer Valley recently announced the launch of Hope for the Holidays, a holiday gift drive to ensure that all families have the same opportunity to enjoy the holiday season and that all youth have the chance to do what's most important for them – play and have fun.

United Way will work with its trusted and valued community partners such as Mercy Medical Center, the Hilltown Community Center, the Westfield Chamber of Commerce, Christina's House, public schools in Monson and Palmer, and local libraries.

"United Way of Pioneer Valley sees this program as an important opportunity to bring both action and the chance to get involved with communities that are sometimes overlooked," says Paul Mina, president and CEO.

"From downtown to the Hill-

towns, we see how many families are struggling across Hampden County and we're doing our best to make sure they receive the holiday cheer every family deserves."

In collaboration with Mercy Medical Center, United Way will be holding Fill the Fiat: an in-person toy donation event where we will fill a vintage Fiat 500 outside its office with holiday gifts for those in need. More details will be announced later.

"It is truly an honor for Mercy Medical Center and Trinity Health Of New England to work with the United Way, continuing its mission and commitment to serving those in need," said Paul L. Mancinone, chairman of the Board of Directors for Mercy Medical Center.

"By partnering with the United Way of Pioneer Valley, this Fill the Fiat campaign will help bring educational toys and much needed

clothing to those children in need in downtown Springfield and the eastern and western parts of Hampden County. We are blessed to have this opportunity to serve."

Hope for the Holidays is seeking educational toys, as well as socks and pajamas, for infants and children through age 12.

For those wishing to get involved, collection bins and a suggested donation list can be found at uwpv.org/hope. United Way is setting up collection sites throughout the county and they will be open through Dec. 7. Staff and volunteers will sort donations and deliver them to our community partners, who will distribute to families.

Donors can also visit the Amazon gift registry at www.uwpv.org/hopegifts.

More information can be found at uwpv.org, and donations can be made at uwpv.org/donate.

Eagle Scout dedicates project to endangered butterfly

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – Monson resident and Troop 765 Eagle Scout Nathan Dietz used his interest in butterflies to not only execute his very own unique Eagle Scout project, but also help preserve a nearly endangered species.

Dietz said he has been fascinated with butterflies, specifically the Monarch butterfly, since the age of 11. After learning these specific butterflies' population has gone from 1.2 million in 1990 to less than 20,000 in 2020, Dietz decided to take matters into his own hands, especially since his Eagle Scout project was right around the corner.

For his Eagle Scout project, Dietz planted a garden for Monarch butterflies to be raised and released at the Wales Baptist Church. The project ran from January to July of 2021.

"I was able to find 46 caterpillars and raise them and release them this year, which it was very shocking because I thought the garden wouldn't take effect until the following year," Dietz said.

"My main focus, which succeeded in my eyes, was making people aware of the situation that these butterflies were in. I also gave out flyers discussing the information of what were the monarchs were in. It was just great to see everyone getting the community involved in trying to save this butterfly, which was great to see because that was really what I was kind of going forward with this project."

Dietz's parents, Heidi and Christopher Dietz, are both equally proud of their son for completing his project and becoming an Eagle Scout.

"I've been with him through his journey," Heidi said. "He's been in Scouting for over a little over six years



Courtesy Photos
Troop 765 Eagle Scout Nathan Dietz is using his new title to help other Scouts receive their Eagle Scout patch as well.



For his Eagle Scout project, Nathan Dietz made a garden for Monarch butterflies to raise awareness of the nearly endangered species.

now. He's worked his way up and lives the scout motto. He is such a role model for the other kids."

Since he is now an Eagle Scout, which is a huge honor and signifies the many years he has put into scouting, Dietz said he believes his hard work has officially paid off.

"To me, it represents that you've learned how to plan, manage and execute projects," Dietz said.

"Your other role is to help people around who want to want to get to become an Eagle Scout as well, or just move up the ranks and earn merit badges. I feel like that's a part of my responsibility to help them get to their goals because I received help when I was going for my Eagle Scout patch. It doesn't seem right that I wouldn't help them when they helped me out for so much during my project."

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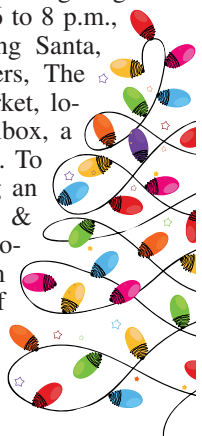
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Tree lighting ceremony Nov. 26

STURBRIDGE – The Sturbridge Recreation Committee will hold the 2021 Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m., on the Town Common. Featuring Santa, Holly the Elf, DJ Music Matters, The Publick House, Hearthstone Market, local area merchants, Santa's mailbox, a coloring contest, a holiday raffle. To be entered in raffle, please bring an unused, unwrapped toy for Cops & Kids Toy Drive with Sturbridge Police Department or wish list item for local animal rescue Wings of Freedom. For more information, people may visit www.sturbridge.gov/recreation.



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